## REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 are pending.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by DeSimone (US Patent No. 6,212,548).

New claims 11 and 12 are added.

Thus, claims 1-12 remain pending for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added in this Amendment. The foregoing rejection is hereby traversed.

PRIOR ART

DeSimone

The claimed invention is directed to creating a new type of user profile. DeSimone is completely silent on and does not disclose or suggest user profile creation, because DeSimone is directed to allowing a user to participate in two or more chats simultaneously by using an originator ID and a conversation ID.

In contrast to DeSimone, the claimed invention provides a user with information about a person to whom the user is about to talk, for example, prior to initiating conversation in a virtual space, based upon messages transmitted by the person. In the present invention, a user profile is created based on keywords contained in a message transmitted by the user, such as a URL as the keyword (see, e.g., page 14, line 15 to page 15, line 4; and FIG. 2 of the present Application). Using the message-based user profile created according to the present invention has a benefit of providing services based on user message data (i.e., services based upon message attribute data) as follows:

1) inviting a user categorized in a specific category to a channel, or to send a message to such a user;

2) create a friend list, category by category;

3) display users in a channel, category by category;

4) restricting chat participation of a user based upon the message-based user profile of the user as follows: restricting creation of a channel or entry to a

channel by a user with a high rating information, restricting a number of users with a high rating information to join, restricting invitation of user with a high rating information to a channel, and restricting messages of users with a high rating information. For example, when a user mentions a harmful URL in messages from the user, a harmful message level of the user is increased and used to allow or not allow the user to participate in a chat (see, e.g., page 17, line 21 to page 18, line 3, of the present application).

The examples of services that can be provided based upon user message data (i.e., based upon keywords included in user messages) are explained in page 29, line 5 to page 34, line 10; and page 35, lines 2-20, of the present Application.

Therefore, the essence of the claimed invention is to obtain information about a user in a network conversation system, such as a chat system, according to messages transmitted by the user in virtual spaces of the network conversation system. The Examiner relies on DeSimone's column 15, lines 1-36 and column 16, lines 25 to 37, for allegedly disclosing the claimed invention. However, the DeSimone descriptions referred to by the Examiner relate to controlling chat participation using authorization information, such as using the originator ID and the conversation ID, a password or keyword included in a chat message (see, column 15, lines 5-12). Although DeSimone discloses that in some cases a password or other keywords may be added in message dialogues, the password or other keywords are used as fixed authorization information in a message to control access to a chat room. In contrast, in the present invention a message keyword is used to categorize the message containing the keyword and correlate the category to the user that transmitted the message.

It appears that the Examiner deems the present invention's claimed category to be same as a conversation ID. However, such overly broad interpretation of the present claims is not appropriate, because clearly a category differs than a conversation ID. The dictionary defines a category as a classification. The specification of the present application clearly describes that a category is a classification, such as hobby, that is correlated with a keyword, which is a classification of the keyword that can be attributed to the user (i.e., the user is classified as enjoying hobbies). Therefore, the present invention's claimed category differs than DeSimone's conversation identifier, because DeSimone's conversation identifier only identifies a chat room (a conversation) and does not classify (categorize) a message that can be attributed to a sender of the message as in the claimed present invention. In DeSimone, a conversation identifier only indicates that the user is participating in the particular chat room or conversation (DeSimone,

column 3, lines 43-47 and column 5, lines 40-54). Therefore, DeSimone does not disclose "keywords and categories are correlated" and "the category is correlated to a user" based upon the keywords in messages transmitted by the user (i.e., "if the message exchanged within the virtual space contains the keyword"). The Examiner also appears to rely on DeSimone's "combination of sender's ID and conversation index" in column 5, lines 40-54, for disclosing the present invention's "keywords and categories are correlated." However, a conversation index is not a category, because the conversation index identifies chat rooms or conversations and does not classify (categorize) messages of the conversations.

In contrast to DeSimone, the claimed invention creates a message-based user profile for each user by correlating message keywords of each user to categories, which beneficially can be used to control access to a chat room. In particular, the present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, and 10, using the recitation of claim 1 as an example, provides:

> 1. A profile creation method ...
>
> providing predetermined keywords and predetermined categories such that the keywords and categories are correlated to each other;
>
> identifying a category that corresponds to a keyword if the message exchanged within the virtual space contains the keyword; and
>
> storing the identified category such that the category is correlated to a user (emphasis adde).

Therefore, claims 1-10 are allowable over DeSimone, and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-10 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claim 5 recites, "updates the rating data of a user when a predetermined harmful keyword is sent." In rejecting claim 5, the Examiner relies on DeSimone, column 4, lines 43-56. However, the DeSimone description referred to by the Examiner does not relate to user rating data, and, therefore, does not describe "updates the rating data of a user when a predetermined harmful keyword is sent."

New claim 11 provides an alternative recitation of the present invention. In contrast to DeSimone, new claim 11 recites,

> 11. (NEW) A method, comprising:
>
> correlating predetermined keywords with predetermined personal interest and characteristic categories;
>
> managing a personal interest and characteristic category of a user according to a keyword in a message transmitted by the user within a virtual conversation space formed on a computer network, based upon the correlating; and
>
> providing message-attribute-based virtual space services to users in the virtual conversation space according to the managed personal interest and characteristic category of the user. (emphasis added).

Support for the new claim 11 can be found, for example, in page 14, line 15 to page 15, line 4; and page 35, line 2 to page 36, line 2, of the present Application. New claim 12 is an apparatus performing the process of claim 11. It is clear that DeSimone does not disclose or suggest the recitation, "managing a personal interest and characteristic category of a user according to a keyword in a message transmitted by the user within a virtual conversation space formed on a computer network, based upon the correlating." Therefore, allowance of claims 11-12 is respectfully requested.

## CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-10, and allowance of claims 1-10 and new claims 11-12 is respectfully requested.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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